

Message Text

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15 S

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 EUR-08 INR-07 SP-02 PRS-01

NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01 RSC-01 CIAE-00 /049 W

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R 200445Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9879

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

CNO WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T JIDDA 0401

LIMDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, US, XO

SUBJ: JOINT EXERCISES WITH IRANIAN NAVY

REF : A. JIDDA 0325; B. TEHRAN 0346

1. REF A (WHICH WAS SENT BEFORE RECEIPT REF B) CONTAINED OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT THE ENTERPRISE NOT RPT NOT ENTER THE PERSIAN GULF IN THE COURSE OF ITS CURRENT DEPLOYMENT TO THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. FOR SIMILAR REASONS WE WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST JOINT MANOEUVRES WITH THE ENTERPRISE TASK GROUP.

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2. WHILE THE SAUDIS SHOULD PERHAPS LOGICALLY CONSIDER OIL-PRODUCING IRAN AS BEING "THREATENED" TO THE SAME DEGREE AS THEMSELVES, THEY DON'T BECAUSE THEY REGARD THE ARABS AS HAVING BEEN SINGLED OUT. MOREOVER THEY HAVE A CERTAIN NERVOUSNESS THAT IRAN MIGHT BE THE CHOSEN INSTRUMENT OF U.S. POLICY IN THE AREA.

3. THE ENTERPRISE TASK FORCE HAS A HIGH VISIBILITY; ITS MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN CHARTED IN THE PRESS SINCE IT LEFT THE PHILIPPINES. WE BELIEVE A JOINT EXERCISE, EVEN IN WATERS OUTSIDE BUT ADJACENT TO THE LULSWN MIGHT AROUSE A HOSTILE REACTION WHICH WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN THE EXERCISE WOULD BE WORTH.

4. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, CANCELLING THE ROUTINE U.S.-IRANIAN-BRITISH EXERCISE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AND GULF OF OMAN--ALTHOUGH FROM OUR STANDPOINT ANY PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE EXERCISE IS LIKELY ALSO TO BE BAD. (WE ARE AMUSED TO PONDER HOW THE BRITISH MIGHT FEEL TO BE MILITARILY ASSOCIATED WITH THE U.S. IN THE GULF AREA AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME). WE BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD SHOULD PREPARE CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE EMPHASIZING THE ROUTINE "ANNUAL" NATURE OF THE EXERCISE, AND HOPE IT IS NEVER USED.

AKINS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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